CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 15 JUNE 2001 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE STATEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED UNDER THE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON THE ELIMINATION OF THEIR INTERMEDIATE-RANGE AND SHORTER-RANGE MISSILES

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the official representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of 1 June 2001 on the conclusion of the inspections conducted under the Treaty between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-range and Shorter-range Missiles (INF Treaty).

I should be grateful if this statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and circulated to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(*Signed*) Vasily **Sidorov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to the
Conference on Disarmament

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Statement by the official representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

On 31 May, the inspections which had been under way for the first 13 years of the implementation of the INF Treaty were concluded. Over the first three years – from July 1988 to May 1991 – the parties eliminated, as verified by inspectors, all systems and facilities covered by the Treaty.

The Soviet Union destroyed 1,846 intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, 825 launchers for these missiles, 1,761 pieces of support equipment and 408 fixed structures for launchers. A total of 74 missile operating bases and 31 support facilities ceased their activities related to intermediate-range and short-range missiles.

In its turn, the United States eliminated 846 intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, 289 launchers for these missiles, 251 training missile stages, 3 training cruise missiles and 29 training launchers. Nine missile operating bases and 14 support facilities were dismantled.

Two entire classes of nuclear missiles, with respective ranges of 500-1,000 km and 1,000-5,500 km, were fully eliminated from the arsenals of the USSR and the United States.

The inspections carried out since the end of the elimination period focused on verifying compliance with the obligations prohibiting the production and flight-testing of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles. The activities took the form of inspections at former missile bases and former missile support facilities. In addition, throughout the years while the Treaty has been in force, the parties have carried out continuous monitoring - at the portals of the Votkinsk machine engineering plant in the Republic of Udmurtia and at the portals of the Hercules plant in the town of Magna, Utah.

Right from the start, inspections under the INF Treaty went beyond the bounds of the bilateral relationship between the USSR and the United States. They also covered missiles which came under the Treaty and were located abroad: American missiles in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom; and Soviet missiles in Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic.

After the demise of the USSR, the inspections were taken over by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and Ukraine as the successor States of the USSR under the Treaty.

Over the 13 years that the Treaty has been in force, more than 440 inspections have been conducted at facilities in the United States, while more than 770 American inspections have been conducted at facilities of the former USSR, including in the Russian Federation. Many thousands of specialists from the States parties to the Treaty have been involved in carrying out these inspections.

The drafting and the successful implementation of the INF Treaty have proved an unprecedented and valuable experience, which is being widely applied in the preparation and implementation of many other international agreements on the elimination, reduction and limitation of arms and armaments. It is significant that, from the outset, this Treaty was concluded and implemented as an integral component of the so-called "architecture of strategic stability", which rests on the cornerstones of the START and ABM treaties.

Moscow, 1 June 2001

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